(c) if so, whether OIDB benefits will cover private sector also; and

(d) if so, the changes proposed in the functioning of the OIDB and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) has been established under Oil Industry Development Act, 1974 for the development of Oil Industry. The purposes for which the financial and other assistance can be given by the Board *inter-alia* includes all activities by way of prospecting or exploring for or production of mineral oil, refining — processing — transportation, storage, handling and marketing of mineral oil, production and marketing of all products, down-stream of oil refinery and the production of fertilizers and petro-chemicals and all activities directly or indirectly connected therewith.

OIDB would continue to render the assistance for the above purpose even after dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM). Funding towards oil sector projects are decided by OIDB on case to case basis, subject to the priorities determined by the Board from time to time.

British Gas's offer for Panna-Mukta and Tapti Fields

2486. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has turned down British Gas's offer for operatorship of the Panna-Mukta and Tapti Oil and gas fields;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any other offer for providing operatorship of these oil & gas fields are under consideration;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is going to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has informed that ONGC, Reliance India Ltd. (RIL) and BG have reached an agreement to work out different joint operatorship models for the Panna-Mukta and Tapti oil and gas fields for which they have constituted a working group.

Indo-Bangladesh Gas Project

2487. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been arrived at, between the Bangladesh and India with regard to the development of Bangladesh Natural Gas pipeline project from Bidiyana Gas Field in north east Bangladesh to Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantity of gas expected to be exported to India and the time by which the gas is likely to be made available to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.